

Spring 2011

Columns Spring 2011

Southern Adventist University

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spring 2011

columns

the magazine of Southern Adventist University

Small Group, Big Impact

page 6



Snow Day!

After eight inches of snow, classes were cancelled for two days at Southern Adventist University, something that hasn't happened since 1993.

Students took advantage of the rare snow by building snowmen and igloos, sledding, and enjoying a campus-wide snowball fight.

"When I woke up in the morning, I saw all the snow and I was super excited," says Smirna Paz, freshman mass communication major from Florida. "I did everything you could do on a snow day."

Watch students enjoying the snow at southern.edu/columns.



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columns

Volume 63 Number 1

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» new media

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Portraying the Past



Sherrie (Platt) Williams', '93, lifelong fascination with the Civil War time period grew when she observed a reenacting class, The Common Soldier of the Civil War, at Southern. Having participated in reenactments for more than 13 years, Sherrie (along with her husband, Baron, '88, and son, Dakota) posed for an authentic family Civil War portrait in September 2010. The image was captured by the reaction of light hardening silver on an iron plate (called "wet-plate photography"), just as photos were made 150 years ago, resulting in an authentic-looking Civil War image.



Photo by Wendell Decker

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A competitor takes part in the annual Southern 6 race on the Biology Trail. [flickr.com/photos/southernu/5474190760/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/southernu/5474190760/)



An early spring blossom graces Southern's campus with its beauty. [flickr.com/photos/southernu/5509748370/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/southernu/5509748370/)

worth a click!

ellenwhiteanswers.org



Religion Professor Jud Lake, author of *Ellen White Under Fire*, hosts this website devoted to responding to criticisms of Ellen White.



Got fully accepted to Southern Adventist University today. I'm terrified ... ♥ lol

»Katie Stricklin, future student

Got the first copy of my book today. Excitement!

»Rainey Park, '10



Recent graduate Rainey Park just published the book *Love, Kirsten*, about student missionary Kirsten Wolcott, who was murdered in Yap. Visit adventistbookcenter.com to order your own copy.

Found out a book I co-authored in 1998 is still generating royalties after being translated into Spanish ... viva South America!

»Victor Czerkasij, '83

Referring to *The Ride of Your Life*, co-authored by Andy Nash, '94, and Alex Bryan, '93



Students placed a "Gordon Bietz" snowman in front of iconic Wright Hall. flickr.com/photos/southernu/5348771835/

youtube

You Tube



Leading animation industry blog *Cartoon Brew* featured this short film by senior animation student Robin George. The film, called "Tezcatlipoca," is a beautiful retelling of an ancient Aztec legend.

See the film at southern.edu/columns.

twitter

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Southern Adventist University puts on some great programs, but today's Renewal church service knocked it out of the ballpark! OUTSTANDING

»Nathan Lewis, junior communication major

There is nothing like sitting in class & knowing God is speaking directly to you through a teacher's lecture!

»Heather Dappolonia, junior film production major

posterous

p

Today was my last day here in Chattanooga. I've had a lot to think about these past couple of days, getting to reflect on my past life here at Southern, all the mistakes I made, the memories I've created. I just can't believe it. I'm leaving this place forever.

It's an incredible feeling, having people who like to be around you just for the sake of being around you. I'm so privileged, lucky, blessed, whatever you want to call it. When I first came to this school, I didn't know anyone. Period. I knew that I wanted to be a film major only because I really, really liked movies. That was it. I had never filmed anything, made any movies on my own, or anything like that. I was completely walking blind into this thing. But now, I've got this ... I don't even know the words that can describe it ... family. We've eaten, hung out, cried, complained, laughed, road tripped, camped, danced, longboarded, swam, and hiked together. And now, just like that, I'm gone.

Every single person I've met has, in some way, impacted me and helped me be who I've become. And for that, it's my turn to say thank you. Thank you for your kindness, thank you for your friendship.

»Theo Brown, '10

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Small Groups on a Growing Campus

By Angela Baerg, '06

Southern celebrated a milestone at the start of this academic year when, for the first time, enrollment surpassed 3,000. Exciting as this is, a larger student body brings with it a new challenge: how to keep our student community close-knit.



To tackle the challenge of a growing university, Southern's Chaplain Brennon Kirstein declared a campus-wide effort "to make Southern smaller," not in the number of students, but by keeping students connected through "Life Groups." These small Bible study groups meet weekly to enrich lives through fellowship and study. This semester, more than 20 Life Groups are gathering across campus.

The motto of Southern's Life Groups ministry is: "No need to knock. When you're part of this small-group family, the door is always open."

Let's take them at their word and drop in on a few groups now.



Southern's Life Groups all share one common goal: to make God relevant to students' lives.

Testimonies to the Church

Smoothies whirl in the blender as the front door clicks open and shut, ushering cheerful voices and happy footsteps into the house. It's Friday evening, and participants of the Testimonies to the Church Life Group are arriving for their regular study time.

Junior pre-physical therapy major Ricky Irizarry, the group's leader, got his first taste of small-group life his freshman year when he attended a small group in his resident assistant's room.

When Ricky got his own place off campus, he knew he wanted to host a small group to recreate those powerful experiences. It's evident that the college

students sprawled across his living room furniture feel this study group is their home away from home.

The room is full now, and Ricky signals that he's ready to begin. Smoothie sips grow silent as the group starts to read from the testimonies. Each person takes a paragraph as they go around the circle until someone sees something he or she wants to discuss. The conversation may run for one minute or fifteen, depending on how much the group has to say. Although all of the group's studies are uplifting and beneficial, one night in particular stands out in the memory of April McNulty, a junior social work major.

"We were studying the death of Jesus on the cross and how the pain He went through was far more than physical pain," she shares. "Somehow talking about it helped us realize on a deeper level how powerful what He did for us still is for our lives."

As questions and thoughts are shared, the atmosphere is open, respectful, and non-judgmental. Before the group knows it, it's time to go. Vespers will be starting shortly at the church, and the students head for their cars.

For junior nursing major Bethany Werner, the benefits of being part of a small group extend far beyond Friday night. "Our small group," she says,

"helps remind me of my true priorities and holds me accountable."

See the Unseen

"Elijah and the chariot of fire!"

"The apostles at Pentecost!"

"Jonah and the whale!"

As the guessers call out Bible stories, the students up front frantically shake their heads and continue to act out their challenging charade: Paul and Silas being released from prison. Finally

melted away. She and her co-leader, Michael Gee, had planned to keep the meetings to half an hour so conversation wouldn't die out and people wouldn't lose interest, but they were in for a surprise.

"At first I tried to end it after half an hour, but everyone wanted to keep on going," she says. "Students at Southern have the option of using Life Groups for worship credit, but many of our members are attending regularly whether

up in everyday conversation," says sophomore engineering major Jonathan Sackett. "I found that with this group."

See the Unseen's members study the abstract things that are all around us—those things we cannot see but that deeply impact our lives, such as the depth of God's power and the Great Controversy.

"Talking about issues with your peers helps you realize how real they are," says sophomore pre-dietetics major Emily Lambeth. "The group has made me think more deeply about how powerful God is and how powerful the devil can be and how I need to be ready to stand up against evil."

It's been dark outside for hours, but the students don't care. Long after Krystal and Michael's tentative 30-minute time limit, the members thoughtfully emerge from the Student Center, heading toward their cars for a late Tuesday night run to Sonic, where their fellowship continues.

"Spending time studying with others has moved my friendships from a superficial level to a spiritual one," shares Krystal. "It's really great because when you're struggling, you know you have other people who are moving in the same direction who can help you on your spiritual journey."

Discipleship Studies

Mouthwatering potato soup steams in the kitchen as tired college students stream in through the front door. It has been a long day for all, but they're about to get a double-shot of nourishment—both physical and spiritual.

Heads bow for prayer, and then a line forms in the kitchen, where soup is generously ladled into ready bowls. Junior accounting major Steven Mercer, the group leader, believes spiritual hunger runs just as deep as physical hunger.

"My goal for my group is that everyone who attends will take their relationship with God more seriously,"



Life Groups provide Southern students with a safe place to share and grow spiritually.

someone guesses it, and the next group goes up front. After all the teams have taken a turn, sophomore engineering major Krystal Anderson, the group leader, reveals what all of their charades have had in common: the supernatural.

Having never led a small group before, Krystal was nervous about the first meeting of See the Unseen. Soon after the group began, however, her fears

they need the credit or not."

The group's circle of comfy chairs reflects the spirit of the study—a circle of faith and friendship. After an icebreaker activity, members share honest life updates, prayer requests, and testimonies. Some are happy, and some are sad, but all are real. Seeing the same people week after week breaks down barriers of shyness as members gradually open up to one another.

"When I joined, I was looking for a group where I could talk freely about religious things that don't often come



says Steven. Once the food is gone and bellies are full, group members debrief on their week and share prayer requests. For many of the students, such as sophomore engineering major Jeremy Mercer, small groups are a totally new experience.

"I like the whole concept," Jeremy shares. "It's an hour of my week when I take a break from life. I relax with friends, and we learn more about God's word together."

Prayer requests are finished now, and the study begins. The topic varies weekly, and this week's discussion is about the delicate balance between grace and works. Verse by verse, the group wades through James 2, searching for the individual applications God has for each of their hearts.

Junior pre-physical therapy major Coty Malone recently transferred to Southern from a public university, searching for more spirituality. He knew only a few people when he arrived, and Steven invited him to join Discipleship Studies Life Group. "At my old university, I basically just went to class and then went home because everyone else went out and partied," he remembers. "This small group has helped me grow

spiritually, and that's why I came to Southern."

Although church and vespers are very important, being surrounded by unfamiliar people at large events can leave one feeling alone. By contrast, it is hard to be invisible in a small group where you are asked to read aloud, share about your week, and discuss your thoughts on Scripture.

"Hearing a sermon is one thing, but stumbling upon an idea on your own in the Bible and verbally and prayerfully exploring it is another thing completely," Steven explains. "You're forced to engage in thinking about it, and when the evening is through, it will be more yours and ultimately have a greater impact on your life."

Women of Spirit

"What is threatening your peace right now?"

Senior nursing majors Kristina Dunn and Suranny Villamizar, the group's co-leaders, pause to give everyone a chance to mull it over. A warm breeze sweeps back the ladies' hair as pansies sway lazily nearby. Rays of sunlight sift through the trellis, sucking the week's stresses away. The answers come pouring out: finances, work, school, always wanting more. It's hard enough to keep fruits and veggies in our daily diets; often the fruits of the Spirit are even more neglected.

"That's why Suranny and I created this group," Kristina shares. "I attended a women's group my freshman year, and I really looked up to those seniors. When I felt lost, they offered me support and guidance."

The steady munching of hummus and pita chips pauses as the ladies bow their heads for prayer and begin the study.

The conversation deepens as the

students realize that yet again they're discussing a topic that has been heavy on the hearts of several group members this week. Neither Kristina nor Suranny knew these ladies' personal struggles when they chose this topic, but God did. Lizeth Rego, a junior nursing student, was nervous when she transferred here last semester. She knew only one person. Fortunately, the one person she knew invited her to join this group.

"I came here looking for something more spiritual," she says. "I love when we study the Word together. It helps me be encouraged when I feel like giving up."

The only problem with the hour the ladies spend together each week is that it slips away too quickly. Before they know it, Kristina is offering a closing thought about how they can all apply their study to their upcoming week, and they are jotting down prayer requests in a special journal to remind them to follow-up later and see how things work out. They close with prayer and hug their goodbyes. As they leave, their burdens feel lighter somehow.

"There is nothing like God's word to bring just the message you need for that day," Kristina says. "God's word is made manifest in friendship. Small groups are vital so that we can be there for each other as we're working through the same questions and the same stresses. They keep people from slipping through the pews."

If recent trends continue, enrollment at Southern will continue to grow—but in the meantime so will these small groups, making Southern smaller one smoothie, charade, bowl of soup, or thought-provoking question at a time. ■

Coming Soon! Life Groups 2.0

Next year, the Life Groups experience on Southern's campus will become even more powerful as these groups continue to multiply, providing more worship options for students as a carefully planned, intentional part of Southern's master plan.

In Life Groups 2.0, Campus Ministries will hire student leaders with more training, accountability, and a detailed job description to help take Life Groups to the next level.



Southern Adventist University Opens the Doors of Florida Hospital Hall

By Ingrid Hernandez, junior business administration and public relations major

Things have changed dramatically since Erica Singh, sophomore nursing major, was accepted into the nursing program. This semester, her first day of classes was charged with an energy much different than usual. This feeling was present in every student and faculty member of the School of Nursing. It was finally time to start attending classes in Florida Hospital Hall.

Erica purposely waited to enter the building until the first day of classes, knowing the self-built suspense would turn into great surprise. And it did.

“When I walked inside, my mouth

dropped and I was in complete awe of the design and how big this hall really is,” says Erica. “I got lost a few times trying to get to class! But I fell in love.”

Once in the correct classroom, Erica found a very enthusiastic professor. It was the beginning of a new journey for Southern nurses, one that would take place in a large, modern facility.

A Home for Every Dynamic

The size of the classroom Erica entered, along with all the other classrooms and tutoring rooms in Florida Hospital Hall, provides needed space for an extensive curriculum and dynamic

mentoring program. It also offers better-equipped labs and resource centers for the popular nursing program.

The three-story, 33,000-square-foot facility differs greatly from the former School of Nursing home. The limited amount of classroom space in Herin Hall had forced nursing classes to spread out among various parts of campus for years, with students traveling from building to building to get their assignments done.

“The fact that all the utilities of the program are in one building really makes the new building effective,” says Erica.

Emulating the Energy of a Hospital

In Florida Hospital Hall, the skills lab is more than a room with beds; it is a lab in which students learn real-life hospital procedures.

When sophomore nursing major Jeremy Pastor first saw the skills lab, he exclaimed, "Ten beds each with a sink? That's crazy!" He was happy to find that the lab was adequately equipped for a growing nursing program.

Erica loves the lab because the space and technology remind her of an actual hospital floor.

Checking off the topics discussed during her final skills lab review, Erica prepares for the actual application of her skills. Instructors relate stories from real hospital situations, making the review a practical experience for eager students. Once the review is done, Erica and her classmates leave their chairs and walk to the beds.

On this particular day, the group is instructed to use the instruments located above the heads of the beds to check their partner's eyes and ears. The fascination is quickly noted as students experiment with various focal and light combinations. The lab instructor encourages their curiosity, suggesting they alternate between partners with dark and light eyes.

Once a semester, students are required to participate in a four-hour simulation. With the control rooms in Florida Hospital Hall, instructors can now control the simulation dummy, Mr. Sim, from a distance while they observe students checking vital signs and administering medication.

Students also benefit from the build-

ing's learning resource center, which is used for research, testing, and review.

"It's a big difference," says Jeremy. "The learning resource center is literally on the same floor as the professors' offices." Jeremy appreciates being able to easily ask questions when he needs help.

Enthusiasm and Increasing Opportunities

With resources that support an easy transition from classroom to workplace, the School of Nursing can continue to produce quality nurses. And with more



Students attend a lecture in one of Florida Hospital Hall's state-of-the-art classrooms.

room, Southern can accommodate the continued rise in enrolled nursing majors.

Students interested in a career in nursing can continue to look at Southern's School of Nursing as a top choice. A larger facility represents more space for the eager students wanting to learn and grow in the nursing program.

The nursing students' increased chances of getting into the program only make the faculty happier. With a building like Florida Hospital Hall, there is nothing but excitement over a growing nursing family.

"We are so happy," says Barbara James, D.S.N., dean of the School of Nursing, "to be a family under one roof again." ■



Charlene Robertson (right) shares a moment with Barbara James, dean of the School of Nursing, at the groundbreaking for Florida Hospital Hall.

Making Charlene Robertson's Dream a Reality

A passionate woman of service, former Nursing Professor Charlene Robertson spent most of her life dedicated to the nursing field. Active in the push for a new building from the start, Robertson served as the original chair for the multimillion-dollar Campaign for Health and Healing, a building project for the Hulsey Wellness Center and Florida Hospital Hall.

Robertson died in 2009 and was thus unable to see the campaign completed. In an emotional speech during the grand opening of Florida Hospital Hall, Charles Robertson spoke of his loving, devoted wife.

"All through our marriage she worked as a nurse, and I was so proud of her nursing skills that I bragged she could step into any position in the hospital and do it well," he says. "She was happy to be chosen to serve as the original chairperson for the committee to raise money for this building."

Robertson shared the vision for Florida Hospital Hall with anyone who would hear it.

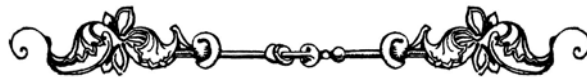
"Florida Hospital Hall continues our tradition of key building projects," says Franklin Farrow, member of the Committee of 100, a group that has served Southern for over 45 years.

Huldrich and Marion Kuhlman left their estate to the Christian education in which they so firmly believed. "It's a beautiful, gorgeous building," says their daughter Beverly Kinney. "Southern nursing students now have more opportunities than they did years ago."

Thanks to the dedicated vision that so many shared with Robertson, the new building is open and serving the needs of future nurses.

"This was a dream come true for Charlene," says Kathy Schleier, current campaign chair. "She wanted these nurses to go out and show their light because it was so important to her."

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2010



SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY HAS LONG BEEN
KNOWN FOR TWO THINGS, STATELY PILLARS AND
CHRIST-CENTERED PROGRESS. AT THIS PAST ALUMNI
WEEKEND, THEMED "PILLARS OF PROGRESS," ALUMNI
WERE INVITED TO EXPLORE THE CAMPUS THROUGH
VARIOUS OPEN HOUSES AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES
HOW SOUTHERN HAS GROWN AND EXPANDED
SINCE THEY LAST WALKED THE HALLS.



1 Darlene (Peterson) Schmidt, attended, prepares to enjoy a tasty meal with friends at the So-Mi-Conian supper, a dinner held in honor of those who attended Southern Missionary College between 1956-65.



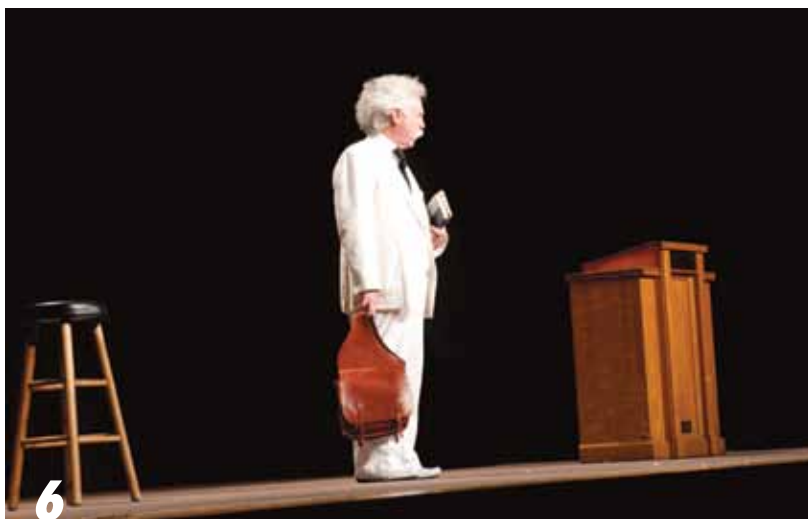
2 Bruce Coston, '83, hosted a book signing during the weekend for his book *Ask the Animals*.

3 Andrew Mashchak, '00, takes a pre-race rest before running the Southern Shuffle Moonlight 5K Saturday night.

4 Alumni and former and current nursing faculty take a guided tour through the new Florida Hospital Hall during the departmental open house tour Sabbath afternoon.

5 Volunteer Larry Kuhn helps an alum's son roast an apple during the Kids Fallfest Saturday evening.





6 Richard Garey, '68, performed as Mark Twain for the Saturday evening program in Iles P.E. Center. Garey has traveled internationally performing as Twain.

7 [not an alumni event] The same Sunday as alumni weekend, Advancement held the Stakeholder's Brunch, an opportunity to thank donors and share the results of their generosity.

As attendees made their way to the Presidential Banquet Room for the brunch they were greeted by several schools and departments showcasing students' work.



8 Alumni study a display of Southern memorabilia in the Heritage Museum in Lynn Wood Hall.

9 Jeannette Frick, senior financial management major, speaks with Ruth Merkel, the author of *Hannah's Girls*, during the alumni author fair at McKee Library on Sunday.





10 Lauren Sigsworth, junior biology major, cuts the tape in front of the new DNA lab, signifying its official opening during the departmental open houses on Sabbath afternoon.



11 Jeanne (Denski) Norskov, '78, arranges quilt squares before sewing them together during the alumni fiber arts display and workshop event. Alumni also displayed quilts and bags on the walls.

12 Eric Rasmussen, '02, returned to campus to play the organ during alumni weekend's Evensong program, assisted by Mindy (Myers) Burgin, '98.





SOUTHERN PUT IN

JEOPARDY!

No complaints—just cheers—for the student who thrust Southern into the national spotlight and pulled the campus together

By Lori Fletcher, '94

Excitement fills the air as some of the brightest students in the country gather in the studio lobby. There are the expected contenders: Yale, Notre Dame, UCLA. ... But as the elevator doors open for the sixth time, eyes squint to read the sweatshirt identifying the eager-faced contestant.

"Southern Adventist University—where is that?"

For two weeks, the quiet campus known mostly for its spiritual focus displayed its academic strength on the national stage as senior biochemistry major Hans von Walter appeared on the 2010 *Jeopardy!* College Championship.

Prequel

At the age of 7, while watching *Jeopardy!* with his uncle, Hans decided that one day that would be him standing behind the *Jeopardy!* podium,

buzzing in with questions to the challenging answers presented by Alex Trebek.

Hans did have a knack for trivia, a knack that put him in the National Geography Bee as an eighth grader. Winning the geography bee, Hans became the pride of Walker Memorial Academy and the entire Florida Conference. "No way could I have made it there without God," the eighth-grader told *Florida Focus*. "Everything happens for a reason."

Six years later, Hans carries this same philosophy. Though he experienced temporary disappointment a year ago after being cut right before the final contestant pool was selected for *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, Hans sees that it was part of God's timing.

"If I had made those," Hans says, "I would have been ineligible for the college tournament."

The Premiere Episode

In a nail-bitingly close competition, the first round of the championship left Hans in third place, but with a score high enough to leave him hopeful that he might earn a wild card slot for the semifinals.



Since the two-week tournament was taped over the course of a couple days, Hans didn't have to wait very long to find out that he was indeed moving on—but everyone else would.

As Southern's administration began planning a watch party upon Hans' return to campus, Hans was nervous about how the students would react to him not winning in the first round. He didn't expect that the viewing party, advertised mostly by word of mouth, would become the event of the year. The packed-to-capacity Dining Hall came to life with football-game-like cheering when Hans' image appeared on the screen.

During the next 30 minutes, school



Alex Trebek introduced Hans von Walter—and Southern Adventist University—to the world.

spirit overflowed as students, faculty, staff, and local media shared in Hans' *Jeopardy!* journey. For the first half of the game show, Hans carried a dominating score.

"As I was watching Hans, my school spirit was gaining by the second," recalls Marc Grundy, associate vice president for Marketing and Enrollment Services. "I kept excitedly thinking how everyone would see firsthand that students from our little Adventist university can easily measure up quite well to students from the elite universities."

But then came the Double Jeopardy round. One of the categories was "Rap Music." Hans didn't buzz in for a single question in that category, and his

competitors gained on him. But instead of being disappointed, many viewers beamed with an even greater pride for the university's representative.

"I couldn't be more proud that Hans had more important things to do with his time than to listen to music like this," says Grundy. "I felt like Hans not only represented Southern and our academic excellence extremely well, but more importantly, he represented the heart and mission of Southern—to be in the world, but not of the world; to know answers to questions that actually mean something."

In the end, the final scores came down to the amount each contestant betted in the Final Jeopardy round. Hans came in third, but with a very respectable score.

When Hans admitted to a friend that he had feared everyone would be disappointed, the friend responded, "Hans, I didn't come to the viewing party to watch you win. I came to watch you be on *Jeopardy!*"

That seemed to be the reaction of everyone on campus, as for the next few days Hans was flooded with positive comments from students about his *Jeopardy!* experience—even though no one yet knew he would move on to the semifinals.

"You confirmed my decision to come to Southern," one freshman told him, admitting that she hadn't been completely sure if Southern was the right university for her until seeing Hans' accomplishment.

A Grand Finale

Finally, the news became public that Hans had moved on to the semifinals, and students gathered to watch again—this time in a game that he dominated to the end. Winning in the semifinals round, Hans went on to the two-episode championship finale.

By the end of the first episode, Hans held a score of negative \$6,000 and

was unable to participate in the Final Jeopardy round. Despite an amazing comeback during the second episode of

"Opportunities like these provide an incredible chance to witness."

—Hans von Walter

the finale, Hans never quite caught up with his teammates, placing third in the 2010 *Jeopardy!* College Championships.

Leaving with \$25,000 and 14 new friends who have a new respect for Southern, Hans says he wouldn't change a thing.

"I don't regret any one part of my experience," says Hans. "I was glad to represent Southern and the Adventist name. Opportunities like these provide an incredible chance to witness." ■

To see a clip of the viewing party, go to southern.edu/columns.



What Are the Odds?

- **10,000** college students took the initial test to be in the *Jeopardy!* College Championships.
- **250** were invited to audition.
- **15** participated in the championships.
- **3** made it all the way to the finale—one of whom was Southern's very own Hans von Walter.

Lending a Hand

One of the most popular Community Service Day projects this year consisted of animal care, running the gift shop, cleaning, and other various tasks at the Chattanooga Zoo at Warner Park. Crystal Case, sophomore film production major who was one of more than 500 participants in this annual Community Service Day, made sure Sydney the camel was given proper care and attention. The zoo one was one of more than 30 sites to benefit from Southern students' service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.





Professor Haluska brings his passion for life—and faith—to every class.

A-A-A-0

By Deanna Moore, junior mass communication major

I realized it was going to be a tough semester after my first day of class. My time was crowded with work and school, and my stress levels were maxed. Assignments were building up, including a profile piece for my magazine and feature writing class. I decided to write an article about my English literature professor, Jan Haluska, Ph.D. When I made an appointment with him, I was hoping I could get some information and get it fast. Instead, I came out of his office with a new sense of what it means to trust in God completely.

A Worthy Slogan

Colonel Harry Flint was the leader of the U.S. 39th combat team during World War II. His use of radical strategies turned his ordinary unit into something extraordinary. Flint's famous slogan, A-A-A-0, was written on every vehicle, weapon, stove, tent—everywhere in his camp. Anything-Anywhere-Anytime-Bar None (A-A-A-0).

Jan Haluska, chair of the English Department, wrote the symbol A-A-A-0 on a piece of scratch paper, passed it to me from across his desk and leaned back. Haluska has a background in the military and although he didn't serve in Flint's team, he identifies with this motto.

In August 2009, Haluska was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He compares the experience of finding out he had cancer to having a tooth pulled as a child. "There was a moment of shock, and you could still taste the blood, and you could put your tongue in there. It was like that moment of shock. It wasn't like I was going to fall on the floor, but there was a moment that I knew it had hit."

Though He Slay Me

The cancer grew quickly and Haluska knew he needed to take steps immediately. He contacted a doctor at an internationally known organization, but had to wait for his medical records to arrive so the physician could review his case. After four torturous weeks of uncertainty, he was faced with another obstacle: the doctor called and said he wouldn't take the case because Haluska was too old.

"It occurred to me to see this as a test," Haluska said to me. "God was saying, 'Will you trust me with your life? If nothing happens and you don't know why, will you still keep your faith?'"

Dr. Haluska stared at me from across his desk. The walls leaned in close as if to hear me answer the question. I felt intimidated until he went on, answering his own question.

"I found that, yes, I'll be faithful. 'Though he slay me I will trust him.'"

The Wilderness at Sinai

The phone rang, interrupting our conversation. "English Department, Haluska. Hello Sherry, how are ya?" I tried not to eavesdrop, but while he spoke I couldn't help realizing that Haluska isn't just my strict professor; he's someone's neighbor, friend, husband. He hung up the phone and resumed his story, which was quickly becoming an eye-opening reality, not just another Tuesday morning lecture.

Haluska said that learning his case wouldn't be accepted was the hardest time for him and his wife during his fight with cancer. That night they talked to their neighbor, who knew the woman in charge of scheduling at Memorial Hospital. She called her contact and found out that the top oncologist in Chattanooga had a cancellation the next morning and was able to see Haluska. The doctor researched his case and decided radiation was the best course of action to take.

"After four weeks in the wilderness at Sinai, the next day everything fell into place," Haluska said. "It's like you walk toward a wall, and suddenly it opens up to be a door, and it's an escalator, and you don't even have to walk—everybody does it for you. That's where I saw the hand of God. I think the hand of God was first of all in the wilderness: 'Okay how's your faith?'"

A Continuing Battle

Three months later the doctor performed laparoscopic surgery to remove the tumor and ran tests to see if the cancer had spread. Out of 12 lymph nodes one came back positive for cancer, indicating a 70 percent chance that it had spread to the rest of his body. The battle wasn't over, but Haluska had a new peace and confidence. Thinking about how far God has brought him, Haluska sits back and smiles.

"It starts with saying, 'I'm yours and I'll do anything that you want.'" Anything-Anywhere-Anytime-Bar None. Cancer or no cancer, Haluska was choosing to trust God.

As I walked out of Haluska's office, I let his words sink in. I want that kind of faith—faith that will enable me to put complete trust in God so that no matter what I'm faced with I can look to Him and say, "Anything-Anywhere-Anytime-Bar None." ■



Learning Where to Place My Confidence

By Carrie Francisco, senior mass communication major

I walked into my first Communication Research class of the semester optimistic about my ability to accomplish the tasks ahead. I understood it was a tough class, but I knew I could rely on my strong work ethic to get me through.

Overwhelmed

Only a week into class, that optimism vanished. I began to question my ability to get through, especially after learning there was a major group project that would take the entire semester to complete. I am not a fan of group projects where you have to rely on others to complete their part to attain a good grade.

Our project topic required at least 30 surveys from couples at Southern, a research theory relating to our research hypothesis, measurements, and a solid paper at least 12 pages long.

Weeks passed by as I met with my group members, Danielle Qualey and Ingrid Oberholster, to work on our research project. As I studied with these girls, I began to form friendships I had not anticipated. Evenings were spent working on our project, brainstorming, and laughing. The more time we spent working on our project, the more I began to enjoy the camaraderie of the group experience.

However, due to unexpected setbacks and Thanksgiving break, we were behind, with only one week left to complete the assignment. We didn't even have a survey to give to couples. Even after we found a survey to use, I had difficulty contacting and scheduling couples to give them a survey. Feeling stress starting to cloud my thoughts, I began to slowly shut down. I could not fathom the end product.

Sitting on the floor in Ingrid's room with the two girls, I knew we were all silently thinking the same thing: *how were we going to finish in only a week?* As we continued to figure out our predicament, Danielle offered to pray. There we sat praying. Peace seemed to shine on the cloud of stress. Again, I was happy to be part of a group, sharing the stress with those who knew what I was going through, no explanation necessary. Remembering my initial dread and hesitancy to be part of a group, I felt silly that my confidence in my abilities was actually an arrogant attitude. Fortunately, Danielle and Ingrid were hard workers, and I learned I could trust and depend on them.

We made a plan that included many late nights, but it gave us hope that our project would be completed on time. Every night we worked relentlessly in our drive to finish—each of us focusing on completing our own individual duties.

Successful

Our professor, Linda Crumley, Ph.D., also offered her support and encouragement. Understanding our setbacks, she sacrificed her time to stay late nights in her office, helping us understand a complex computer program that would give us the statistics we desperately needed for the measurements section of the paper. Not only did she sacrifice her time, but she bought us pizza and fruit for our hungry stomachs.

Each night, we made progress, and I slowly began to see the final product taking shape. The night before our final research paper was due, butterflies occupied all of our stomachs. Beginning our final night together for this project, we prayed for focus. As the clock ticked by, God granted our request to stay focused, and new sentences were added to the completion of the paper. Finally, we saw the end product. Exhausted—yet ecstatic we were done—none of us had any energy to fully grasp and celebrate our success. We finished everything in one week and on time.

Sighing a breath of relief, I knew this class had taught me more than communication research. I learned that I cannot do everything on my own, and sometimes it is important to trust in others to help. I also realized how blessed I am to have professors who take time to care about their students, who offer encouragement, and who are willing to work with us. This class pushed me to excel, and learn how to work productively with others. These lessons will stay with me even after I graduate from Southern.

Whenever I see Danielle and Ingrid on campus, I think of how our hard work, trust in each other, and trust in God helped us to accomplish a goal we all thought nearly impossible. ■

[around campus]

Changes in Religion Courses Benefit Students

Southern implemented new requirements for general education religion courses this academic year. Students still take 12 hours of religion classes, however the new requirements involve students taking classes that cover three general subject areas:

- growth and development of personal spirituality
- Seventh-day Adventist identity
- study and understanding of the Bible

These three new requirements are closely correlated to one of Southern's stated learning goals: "Students of Southern Adventist University will grow spiritually in a vibrant relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, while integrating into their lives Bible-based beliefs and values as understood by the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

Personal Spirituality

In a desire to be more intentional in fulfilling the learning goals, faculty in the School of Religion believe that every stu-

dent should have the opportunity to take a class that expounds on how to grow and develop a relationship with Jesus—to know Him as their personal Lord and Savior. By developing this friendship with



Students outside Hackman Hall, the home of the School of Religion.

Jesus early in college, students can continue to grow their relationship with Jesus as they continue through their collegiate career.

Adventist Identity

Sensing that many students did not have a basic knowledge of Seventh-day Adventist identity and beliefs, professors

felt that students should take at least one class that focused on providing this knowledge. Students would then have an awareness of what the Adventist church holds as important—to have a basic foundation in Adventist identity and beliefs, especially so they can integrate them into their daily lives.

Understanding Scripture

Students are also required to take at least one class where the Bible is the main textbook, so they can learn how to study Scripture and experience personal spiritual growth as a result.

With a good grounding in the Bible and an understanding of Adventist beliefs, students will be able to grow and strengthen their relationship with Jesus even after they leave Southern.

"The new curriculum provides a nice balance as students move through their religion requirements," says Greg King, Ph.D., dean of the School of Religion.

"This makes for a very balanced program."

—Carrie Francisco

Schools Celebrate Accreditation Milestones

The School of Education and Psychology and the School of Social Work are both celebrating recent accomplishments in accreditation.

Southern's teacher education and school counseling programs received full accreditation on both the undergraduate and graduate levels from the Tennessee Department of Education and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

NCATE approved full accreditation with no areas for improvement, a designation given to about 2.5 percent of colleges examined every year. Special recognition was given by NCATE to two areas—as-

essment and governance.

Southern's Master of Social Work program has been granted official candidacy status from the Council on Social Work Education, putting the program on the path to full accreditation. The program began in the fall of 2010 with more than 50 students enrolled.

"Program specific accreditation is an important process to identify academic quality and areas needing improvement," says Vice President for Academic Administration Bob Young. "We are grateful to God and the faculty and leadership of these academic areas for the outstanding outcome." —Jarod Keith



Daniels Hall is the home of the School of Social Work.

[around the nation]

Increasing Retention Contributes to Southern's Continued Growth

Following Southern's recent trend of continued growth, more students are currently enrolled at Southern than have ever before attended during the winter semester.

A five year report that Southern did on the percentage of freshmen not returning in the winter semester shows that the freshmen retention rate increased significantly from year to year. In 2007 the dropout rate was 11.6 percent; this winter semester the dropout rate has been

reduced to 7.6 percent.

The report concludes that Southern Connections, a freshman class that helps students to make friendships within their major and connect with their professors, is one of the many factors that have helped keep freshmen into the winter semester.

With a headcount of 2,890 students (2,553 undergraduate and 337 graduate), Southern has 148 more students than were enrolled last year at this time.

TENNESSEE

"Ultimately, I believe the true reason that Southern has been able to retain so many students into the winter semester is that God is blessing Southern Adventist University in an abundant way," says Marc Grundy, associate vice president of Marketing and Enrollment Services. "When you continue to keep Christ as the focus of your campus and you put your trust in Him, He will bless you more than you can ever imagine." —Carrie Francisco

Southern Alum Wins Emmy

With an Emmy Award on her résumé, Maranatha Hay, '08, is one successful Southern graduate.

Hay recently won an award for her documentary at the 36th Annual Pacific Southwest Emmy Awards in San Diego.

Surgeons of Hope is an emotional short documentary that she wrote, directed, and edited.

The film follows the stories of two young children in Nicaragua undergoing heart surgeries.

The 28-minute video was produced for Loma Linda University by its public relations team. Hay

took a position as a

video public relations specialist at Loma Linda after graduat-

ing from Southern with a degree in broadcast journalism. Her job allows

her to do what she loves most—telling stories.

"I love telling stories and educating others about what I've learned," says Hay.

"What makes a story fascinating is the



Maranatha Hay (left), proudly displays her Emmy Award along with Loma Linda University colleague Patricia Thio.

human element."

She credits Southern for preparing her to pursue a career in documentary film-making.

"At Southern, I learned how to learn," explains Hay. "I admired my professors, and wanted to emulate them in my professional life."

Stephen Ruf, one of her professors in

the School of Journalism and Communication, remembers Hay as a motivated student.

"She was always enthusiastic about looking for the next story," says Ruf. "It's a thrill to see her succeed professionally and be recognized for the quality of work she does." —Jarod Keith

CALIFORNIA

Students Volunteer with Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

This February, the Communication Club from Southern headed to Rossville, Georgia, for a unique experience in volunteering on the television show Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.

The show provided a home makeover for the Sharrock family, whose son has brittle bone disease. While volunteers and crew worked to build a new home in just one week, the Sharrock family was sent on vacation to Disney World.

Students were excited to be able to help the family and get a closer look at how a television program works behind the scenes.

"This was a cool opportunity to have a huge project like this to help out the deserving family," says Nathan Lewis, a junior mass communication major. "It doesn't matter if the family ever knows

that Southern was there, but for us it's feeling really good that we made a difference for the Sharrock family."

Including the 25 students from Southern, there were 40 volunteers packing up the home and moving boxes into storage while the home was being worked on.

"It is important to volunteer our time because we go to a Christian university and we follow Jesus' example in His mission to help those in need," says Keith King, a sophomore mass communication major. "It is exciting to be involved with a television program, but we should take the same excitement to the world in other volunteer projects we help out with."

For all involved there was a sense of uniting for a great cause, something



Students were proud to represent Southern's values as volunteers on Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.

students and professors who participated will not soon forget.

"In participating," says Andy Nash, a professor in the School of Journalism and Communication, "there was a reminder of how the power of a group can make a real difference in someone's life."

—Carrie Francisco

[around the world]

Bietz Shows His Support of Students' Literacy Campaign

Attendance was high for Southern's February 10 convocation, not only because of the speeches given by potential Student Association candidates, but also because of the hype around campus about the changing of President Gordon Bietz's hair color.

Bietz agreed to temporarily dye his hair if the students raised \$5,000 for "No

More Thumbprints," a campaign that exists to rid the use of thumbprints as signatures for those who are illiterate in El Salvador. In order to fight this country's illiteracy rate, where less than 50 percent are able to read and write in many rural and poor communities, the campaign is

supporting "Learning Circles" for elementary students to learn basic reading, writing, and math skills.

"Literacy is vital to any community and nation," says Bietz. "In order to encourage fundraising for this great cause, I agreed to dye my hair."

Through the support of donations and purchases of "No More Thumbprints" merchandise on the university's campus as well as partnering with the Adventist Intercollegiate Association, Southern was able to raise more than \$5,000 for the campaign. In addition, various clubs and organizations on campus competed in the fundraising process to determine Bietz's future hair color.

Thus, Bietz presented himself with purpleish-blue colored hair to a cheer-

ing crowd of students attending convocation. Following his makeover, Bietz spent time serving food in the cafeteria—a spectacle for everyone to see.

"It's inspiring to see that President Bietz agreed to dye his perfectly smoothed head of white hair," says Jacob Faulkner, a senior nursing student. "It shows his humbleness and willingness to serve."

—John Shoemaker



President Bietz's temporary new look was incentive for students' fund-raising effort.



Southern Exchanges Faculty with Argentinean Sister School

Assistant Professor of English Laurie Stankavich takes a green marker and begins drawing what looks like an overflowing can of chicken noodle soup on the board.

“You’ve opened a can of worms,” says Stankavich. “It’s controversial.”

The group chuckles. What has been an off-topic discussion turns into an opportunity to learn a useful English expression.



The Argentinean delegation received valuable instruction and experienced Southern’s culture of hospitality.

Conversations like these, partly in English and partly in Spanish, are daily occurrences for Stankavich, a seasoned ESL teacher. And although the group is different every semester—this class consists of senior administrators at an Adventist university in Argentina—the goal of learning English is the same. The university administrators are here from la

Universidad Adventista del Plata (UAP) in Argentina for the purposes of learning English and fostering friendly relations with Southern.

Learning from Each Other

In addition to learning a new language, the two institutions are also interested in learning about each other’s organizational processes, spiritual and mission

activities, and academic programs. So far, administrators from Argentina have shadowed their American counterparts, shared meals with Southern families, and attended committee meetings as guests.

“It’s a Small World”

“We’re very happy about this opportunity,” says UAP President Oscar Ramos, who was invited by Southern’s president to observe the Strategic Planning

Committee, “because we understand it’s something that will benefit both institutions. Our school in Argentina has students from all over the world—56 different countries. English is very important. We want our faculty to grow in their knowledge of English.”

Southern President Gordon Bietz is excited about the faculty exchange program’s impact on Adventist higher education.

“It is always a benefit to the church when two of its institutions collaborate and become familiar with each other,” says Bietz. “It’s a small world, as they say, and we need to have more collaboration with other institutions.”

This is the second group from Argentina to come to Southern, and Southern is sending its second group in May 2011. Carlos Parra, Ph.D., chair of the Modern Languages Department, is Southern’s coordinator of the faculty exchange program. He says that the program is expected to be an annual event.

“I already have people signed up to go to Argentina through 2015,” says Parra.

Back in the classroom, as Stankavich erases the vocabulary words off the board after class, she reflects on what makes this ESL class different.

“It’s always fun to teach students that are motivated,” says Stankavich. “It’s always a great group to teach.”

—Jarod Keith



» by the numbers

18 students taking a new class called Themes from Exodus, Egyptian Warfare, and Archaeology.

520 burritos served to participants during this year’s annual Community Service Day.

33,000 square feet of learning space for nursing students in the new Florida Hospital Hall.

Alum Serves the God of Creation and ADRA

That looks similar to something the Ten Commandments would be written on, thought John Howard as he looked at a granite rock carved with engravings, high in the mountains of China.

Translated, the engravings read: "To the God of Heaven who created all things, help me be an emperor who governs his people with your wisdom."

Now, more than 15 years later, Howard remembers contemplating the translation of the engravings, and the countless mission trips he took to China while working for ADRA.

Howard's desire to become a missionary was solidified when he attended Southern in 1956. Southern opened Howard's eyes to endless possibilities of international service.

One of these opportunities came to light as he read the prayer of the third emperor of China engraved in granite. After Howard descended down the mountain, he was asked by Madam Du, development director for the Chinese government and leader of the trip, to explain the part of the trip he enjoyed the most. Howard immediately informed her of his extraordinary discovery.

"What do you mean, the God of Heaven who created all things?" she asked.

"Madam, the same God of Heaven who created all things is the same God of ADRA," said Howard.

The following day, the story made several headlines after being picked up by the local Chinese media, who gave much attention to the fact that the God mentioned in the emperor's prayer was the same God worshipped by this foreign



John Howard never hesitates to shine his light for Jesus.

Christian missionary.

Thus, the "God of creation" became a spark of interest in the hearts and minds of countless Chinese people.

—John Shoemaker



Visit Southern FREE!

at a PreviewSouthern event

Students interested in attending Southern Adventist University are invited to bring their families and spend a day getting to know what campus life is like during one of the following PreviewSouthern events:

- April 14-15 (register by April 12)
- June 9-10 (register by June 7)

For more information, to register, or to find out about upcoming PreviewSouthern events, call 1.800.SOUTHERN or go online to southern.edu/visit.

3 Southern faculty families headed to Universidad Adventista del Plata in Argentina as part of a cultural exchange initiative.

25,228 Morningstar Farms breakfast patties consumed in the cafeteria last semester.

1 check signed by Abraham Lincoln in the McKee Library Thomas Memorial Collection.

My God Is so Big . . .

By Byron Rivera, senior psychology major

Rain. Unexpected, unwanted, rain. While serving as a student missionary in Palau, Micronesia, I'd been working with my eighth grade students for a month planning a fall festival that would put us back on track with our fundraising goal. The fall festival was scheduled to take place outside because there was no indoor venue that would facilitate an event that size. I had watched my students put long hours into cooking, making posters, and collecting all the miscellaneous pieces that would come together to make an amazing event. With every hour of work our hope and excitement grew, but the unceasing rain was methodically deflating our hope and erasing our excitement.

"We did all this work for nothing, Mister!" one of my students exclaimed. "What are we going to do with all the stuff that we have done? What are we going to do with all the food we made? It's going to spoil." This relentless stream of negativity came from one of my students, Thomas*, who seemed determined to torture us.

Some of the kids dealt with the stress better than others, but the seemingly endless rain was definitely chipping away at our hopes.

Getting Holy Bold

Although our school was an Adventist institution, more than 90 percent of my students were non-Adventist, and more than three-fourths did not go to church at all. This particularly outspoken student just happened to be atheist, and his pessimism was spreading like a plague.

Every time we had worship, Thomas would get upset and tell the other students it was a waste of time, tell jokes, or try to find ways to be disruptive. As a matter of fact, he always had a bad attitude about anything that had to do with God. That is why I decided to get "holy bold."

"Do you want to see how big my God is?" I asked in a calm, collected voice. Thomas did not have anything to say. There was a long moment of



Byron Rivera attends the banquet he and his students organized with money raised at their Fall Festival.

silence as he tried to come up with an answer. As I watched this 13-year-old boy struggle, probably for the first time, with the existence of God, I told him, "It will stop raining, and we will have our fall festival because God is real."

Vindication

About three hours before the fall festival was scheduled, the rain stopped. The hot Pacific sun dried the school grounds just enough to let us set up.

I wish I had been in the room with Thomas when the rain stopped. I would love to have seen the look on his face.

We were able to have our fall festival, which turned out to be the best fundraising event of the year. God blessed our efforts so much that we were able to rent one of the nicest restaurants for a banquet, have an overnight outing, go on a class trip, get class shirts (for all 34 of us), and still leave money for the following year.

While I'll never know the impact this incident had on Thomas, I did see how the experience impacted our grade as a whole. While many of my students had believed in God, they hadn't necessarily viewed Him as a personal God who was interested in their personal problems. These students were encouraged by the answered prayer.

Another of my students, John*, became particularly hungry for God's Word and started staying in during recess to study his Bible. Before I left for home at the end of the year, John gave me a verbal gift that was far more valuable than any of the money we had raised at the festival.

"Mr. Rivera," John said, "thank you for introducing me to Jesus."

Yes, we do serve a big God. ■

**Name has been changed.*

30s **Glen Maxson**, attended, pastors a Hispanic congregation in Gilbert, South Carolina.

40s **Delice (Graham) Williams**, attended, recently celebrated her 91st birthday. On Nov. 1, 2008, she was re-baptized by her minister and good friend **Paul LeBlanc**, '81.



Ruth (Risetter) Watson, '43, '45, and '49, recently wrote and published a book titled *Backwoods Girl*, a story of her experience growing up in the rural Knoxville, Tennessee area during the early Depression years.

50s **Fawzi Abu-El-Haj**, '55, lives in Riverside, California with his wife of 10 years, Lois. They are active in their local church, enjoy attending a Bible study group, and like visiting family and friends. He will celebrate his 80th birthday in May. He enjoyed a visit last year with classmate **Daniel Loh**, '55 and '63.



William "Bob" Catron, attended, and his wife, Linda, recently celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary in January. He celebrated his 75th birthday this past August, and is active with community services in Avon Park, Florida.

Paul "Bill" Dysinger, '51, wrote a book titled *Health to the People*, available on Amazon.com and Trafford.com. He remains active in retirement through his ministry, Development Services International, which has taken him to more than 120 countries. His last overseas assignment was in the Ukraine. He and his wife, Yvonne (Minchin), live in Williamsport, Tennessee.

Bob, '58, and **Glenna (Robinson) Ingram**, attended, are retired and live in Avon Park, Florida.

Barbara (Eldridge) Klischies, '55, is a retired nurse living in Orlando, Florida. She volunteers at Florida Hospital and Shepherd's Hope, and leads out in fellowship programs at her church.

John, attended, and **Carol (Smith) Palsgrove**, '56, live in Avon Park, Florida. In December 2010, they participated in their first Maranatha mission project to build a 230-seat church in Yuma, Arizona.

Marilyn (Biggs) Sykes, '59, is a retired teacher and lives in Highland, California. She enjoys short-term mission trips with ShareHim and Maranatha. She has traveled in Europe and Australia, and cooked for a fishing crew in Alaska. She recently fulfilled a 35-year-long dream of locating her mother's grave and visiting a school named in her mother's honor.

Ralph Workman, '56, lives in Hendersonville, North Carolina, and retired from the U.S. Army in 1980 as LTC. He served as a hospital chaplain and taught in the Fletcher Nursing School. He has been on mission trips to Romania and Costa Rica, and is working as a part-time chaplain at Beystone Health and Rehabilitation.

Burton Wright, '51, lives in Avon Park, Florida, and is the prison chaplain for the Avon Park Church.

60s **Annie (Anderson) Robinson**, attended, is a certified alcohol and drug educator and lives in Winter Park, Florida. She is finishing a degree in mental health counseling.

Judy (Fessler) Bigbie, '69, has worked as a nurse at Florida Hospital Lake Placid Division for 40 years. She lives in Avon Park.

Jean (Schmidt) Kingry, '63, works as a claims assistant at Adventist Risk Management in Riverside, California, and cares for her elderly parents. She has visited Europe and all 50 states of the USA. She likes to hike and camp in the national parks. She has two sons, **Dwight Kingry**, '92 and '99, and **Dwayne Kingry**, '98.

Willfried Kowarsch, '65, and his wife, Dian, live in Burleson, Texas. They have four children and 11 grandchildren. He works for Christian Record Services for the Blind. They had a great experience serving as missionaries last year, teaching English and religion in Kwan Ju, South Korea.

JoAnne (Wassell) Lafever, '66, moved to Guam in August 2009 to work as the educational director of Guam Micronesia Mission. She supervises 16 schools on 11 islands in five countries of Micronesia.

May (Flory) Pierson, '63, is a retired nurse living in Avon Park, Florida. She had the unique opportunity to perform the wedding ceremony for her grandson, **Jonathan Sue**, attended, and his bride, Carrie, in Montana.

Darleen (Davis) Sanford, '64, recently sold her home in Maryland and moved to Clermont, Florida.

Phil, '68, and **Pat (Ramsey) Sue**, '63, are semi-retired and live in Adairsville, Georgia. They also spend time in Florida and Montana, where most of their children and grandchildren live. They enjoy riding motorcycles, four-wheeling, camping, hiking, photography, overland exploring, and mission trips.

Larry "Skip" Williams, '67, retired in 1999 from sales and moved to Jasper, Georgia. He mentors four students in the local middle and high schools, and teaches tennis on the middle school level. He and his wife of 28 years, Susan, travel extensively.

70s **Fred Bischoff**, '72, is a retired physician living in Loma Linda, California. He recently partnered with the Ellen White Estate to produce the new EGW Comprehensive Research Edition CD-Rom. His interests include presenting talks and writing about Adventist History. His website is scripturefirst.net.

Paul, '78, and **Vickie Boling**, '78, live in Avon Park, Florida, where he pastors and she is the Women's Ministry director for the Avon Park Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Charles "Charlie" Brown, '77, lives in Acworth, Georgia, with his wife of nine years, Nancy (Delisle). He is a special procedure nurse at Northside Pain Center in Atlanta and was nominated for excellent nursing by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in 2008.

Judy (Wright) Clarke, '76, is an Employee Clinic nurse for Altamonte

Hospital in Orlando, Florida. Her husband, **James Clarke**, '76, is the Assistant Budget Director for the School of Education at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. They have a daughter, **Julie Clarke**, '04, and a son, Jared.

Dianne (Bange) Fillman, '77, and **Noel Fillman**, '63, retired in 2006. They enjoy mission trips, and have served in South America and the Caribbean. They are planning their fifth trip to Peru with the Standifer Gap Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Lynn Hayner, '71, is a retired pastor living in Onaway, Michigan. He and his wife, Lucy, have been married for 53 years. He enjoys gardening, beekeeping, and assisting in the small local church.

Carmen Miranda, '78, obtained an MBA and worked with The Gillette Company in Boston and Procter & Gamble in Puerto Rico for a number of years. She is a full-time mother to her 10-year-old son and is also sharing life with her 88-year-old mother.



Cyndi (Webber) Shook, attended, married Tim in 1999. They have participated in short-term mission trips to Bolivia with David Gates and are considering returning in the future.

Fred, '70, and **Jane (Travis) Tolhurst**, '70, organized the Grand Players Society in the Maryville, Tennessee, area and recently conducted a successful community campaign to purchase two Steinway grand pianos for the Clayton Center for the Arts at Maryville College.

Theodore Vanderlaan, '78, graduated with a Juris Doctor degree from the Widener University School of Law in May 2010. He lives in Pennsylvania.

Jonathan Wentworth, '75 and '76, an associate professor in the School of Business and Management at Southern, recently co-wrote a book, *Breakeven Analysis: The Definitive Guide to Cost-Volume-Profit Analysis* with professor **Michael Cafferky**.

Phillip, '76, and **Debby (Howard) Worley**, '75, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in June 2010. They live in Johnstown, Colorado. He is a computer teacher for grades K-5 and tech consultant for the public school district in Milliken. She cares for her mother, who has Alzheimer's and lives with them. Their two daughters attend college.

80s **Howard**, '87, and **Beth (Stitely) Bankes**, '85, live in West Virginia. He is director of maintenance at Citizens Nursing and Rehabilitation in Frederick, Maryland. She teaches at Rocky Knoll School in West Virginia and was honored as the Elementary Outstanding Educator of the Year in the Columbia Union Conference. Their son, Nathaniel, graduated from Highland View Academy in 2010, and their daughter, Emily, is a junior there.



Kelly Bishop, '87 and '88, received her MBA in June, from the University of Phoenix in Arizona. She holds her CFTA designation and is a Trust Officer for Glens Falls National Bank and Trust Company in New York. She lives with her grandmother, **Lillian Bolton**, '62, in Bolton Landing.

Kevin Costello, '87, lives in the Philippines and has served for two years as associate treasurer of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. He and his wife, Teresa, have one daughter, Kiona.

Penelope Duerksen-Hughes, '82, lives with her family in Redlands, California. She is assistant dean for Graduate Student Affairs at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. She also conducts research on the human papilloma virus.

JoAnn (Tittle) Ephraim, '88, lives with her family in Lake Wales, Florida, and is a middle school teacher. She and her husband, Louis, recently opened a learning center. They have two children in middle school, and a third who recently graduated from the Adventist university in Puerto Rico.

David, '80, and **Becky (Duerksen) Gates**, '80, have based their ministry,

Gospel Ministries International, near Southern. They are grateful for the students who volunteer to serve in the mission field around the world.

Angela Henry, attended, is president and CEO of Alegria Financial Management, Inc., a CPA firm that provides accounting, tax, and business management services for the entertainment and service industries. She is based in the Atlanta, Georgia area.

Alicia (Rivera) Joy, '82, is an IRB coordinator for the Florida Hospital Institutional Review Board. She works to protect the rights and welfare of people involved in research. She has a 21-year-old son, Scott Cook II.

Kevin Sadler, '86, is the senior accountant at Adventist Care Centers. His wife, Astrid, is a clinical documentation specialist at Florida Hospital Waterman. Their daughter, **Angela Sadler**, attended, is 21.

Maryse (Provencher) Whitsett, attended, lives in the Orlando, Florida area. Her oldest daughter, **Stephanie Whitsett**, attended, plans to marry Christopher Osborne in March 2011.

90s **Daniel**, '98, and **Anita (Zinner) Bates**, '00, live in Minnesota. Dan is pastor of the Duluth church district. They have three daughters, Keri, Kristin, and Ashley, and welcomed a son into the family last October.



Brent Burdick, '97, married Angela Balfour. During the last General Conference Session he was elected treasurer of the Euro-Asia Division

and the couple currently live in Russia. They previously lived in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where Brent was treasurer for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference.

Scott Eden, '91, was the recipient of the 2010 Abbott Nutrition Distinguished Service to ACHCA Award, presented by the American College of Health Care Administrators, for her excellence and leadership as a long-term health care administrator.

Charlie Eklund, '95, serves as a missionary for the Himba Project in Namibia, Africa.

Pavel "Paul" Goia, '99, published a book titled *One Miracle After Another*, an account of his experiences during Communist rule in Romania. **Ralph Hendershot**, '62, sponsored Paul and his family to come to the United States 12 years ago. Paul currently serves as a pastor in Wisconsin.

Christie (Ancil) Harrington, '98, works in financial services and operates her own business in Anchorage, Alaska. She and her husband, Dave, are expecting their first child this fall and will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary in May.

Debbie (Parson) Hill, '97, is married to Pastor Glenn Hill. They live with their two sons, Austin, 14, and Jason, 7, in Darien, Illinois. She is a hospital chaplain at Adventist Midwest Health.

David, '95, and **Marquita (Counts) Klinedinst**, '94, live in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is an evangelist, personal ministries director, lay trainer, and speaker. Information is available at davidklinedinst.com.



Allan Martin, '90, serves on the pastoral team at the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dallas-Fort Worth.

He mentors, encourages, and challenges the 400 young-adult members. Previously, he was associate professor of discipleship and family ministry at Andrews University Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Quentin, '92, and **Kimberly (Sigmon) Purvis**, '90, live in Anchorage, Alaska, where he is vice president of the Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and she teaches grades 1-4 at Anchorage Junior Academy. They have two daughters: Katie, 17, and Kaila, 11.

Elisa Rahming, '99, lives in Altamonte Springs, Florida, and was recently promoted to under treasurer for the Florida Conference.

Luc, '93, and **Anita (Gonzales) Sabot**, '94, moved from Senegal to East Timor, where he is the country director for ADRA. Anita is a teacher. They enjoy traveling and exploring the world with their children: Nicole, Jeremy and Sophie.

Erica (Simien) Small, '97, and her husband live in Lithonia, Georgia, with their two children, ages 10 and 14. They teach marriage classes. She recently graduated from Georgia State University with a degree in psychology and is pursuing a master's in marriage and family therapy.

Gayle (Koehn) Stevens, '90, lives in Flint, Michigan, and teaches grades 1-8 at the local church school. Her husband, John, is a design engineer. Their two daughters are in the 6th and 11th grades.

Juliet (Seaton) Van Heerden, '92 and '10, completed her master's degree in education literacy at Southern. In May she married Pastor André Van Heerden. She teaches at Jacksonville Adventist Academy and is excited about ministry and community service.



00s **Marius**, '03, and **Sarah (Matthews) Asaftei**, '03, live in Grayson, Georgia. He is senior pastor of the Loganville/Monroe churches in the Atlanta area and was ordained during the 2010 General Conference Session. She started a marketing company, SABASAMEDIA, to help nonprofits and small businesses communicate better. Information is available at sabasamedia.com.

Kevin Attridge, '09, is a management resident for Adventist Health System in Orlando, Florida.

Michael, '01, and **Heidi (Olson) Campbell**, '02, live in Montrose, Colorado, where he pastors. They welcomed a son, David William Campbell, in April 2009.

Troy Churchill, '06, received the 2010 ACHCA New Administrator Award from the American College of Health Care Administrators, for his exceptional commitment and

potential as a leader, innovator, and motivator in long-term health care.



Brittany (Robson) Colburn, '05, married Michael in January 2010. She is a business manager, and he is completing a degree in criminal justice. They live in Portland, Oregon.

Rebecca Hardesty, '08, was promoted to district account executive for Aflac. She was 2009 Rookie of the Year for opening the most new accounts in Chattanooga. She is ranked as one of the top 10 Aflac representatives for the state of Tennessee.

Daniel, '08, and **Logan (Ekhart) Harper**, '08, were married August 2008 and live in Park City, Utah. He is a trader in the Forex market. They are initiating a contemporary church service called *Ignite!* at their local church. He was diagnosed in 2007 with a glioblastoma multiforme brain tumor and is now battling GBM again. They request prayers as they face this bout with cancer.

Ruben Harris, '10, secured an investment banking internship with Brookwood Hill Group, Inc., in Atlanta, Georgia.

Karina (Schmunk) Horcha, '00, and husband, Bart, welcomed daughter, Kaelyn Andriette, in November 2009. She joins big brother Jonathan, 4. Karina works in specialized therapeutics for Sanofi-Aventis and the family lives in Michigan.



Claudio, attended, and **Elizabeth (Santa Cruz) Japas**, '02 and '04, married in June 2010, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. They live in California, where

she is a nurse at the Loma Linda Medical Center.

Naomi Marr, '09, is completing her degree in dental hygiene and lives in Orlando, Florida.

Fiorella (Saavedra) Meidinger, '01, and husband, Karl, welcomed a son, Maddox, in October 2009. The family lives in Apopka, Florida.

Brad, '02, and **Lina (Gates) Mills**, '02, serve as missionary nurses on a riverboat on the Amazon River.

Carrie (Mercer) Minton, '02, and her husband, Travis, welcomed a son, Maxwell Porter, in April 2010. His dedication was performed by **Jason Salyers**, '02. The family lives in Alpharetta, Georgia.



Katherine (Tolhurst) Nichols, '02, married Jerome in May 2010. Both graduated from Loma Linda University School of Medicine and are physicians in the Chattanooga, Tennessee area.

Charity Penaloza, '09, is a second-year medical student at Loma Linda University in California.



Crystal (Edmister) Pierson, '01, married Ken in 2004. Both graduated from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry.

They've served at the Seventh-day Adventist Dental Clinic in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, since 2005. They welcomed their first child, Shylah Laine, in March 2010.



Brenda (Pewitt) Porter, '02 and '04, and husband, Andrew, welcomed their first child, Bethany Joanne, in April 2010.

Tyler, '02, and **Stacey (Crandall) Prentice**, '02, recently moved from Birmingham back to Chattanooga.

Gary, '01, and **Wendy (Byard) Roberts**, '01, serve in Chad, Central Africa, as a pilot mechanic and nurse for Adventist Medical Aviation.

Amanda Tortal, '09, has taught for two years in Orlando, Florida and is pursuing a master's degree in inclusive education through Southern.

Faculty and Staff



John Schmidt, former food service director (1959—1963), and wife, Kitty, celebrated their 70th wed-

ding anniversary in June. They are members of the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist church in Riverside, California. They have four children, five grandsons, and seven great-grandchildren.

Remembrance

Benjamin Bandiola, retired School of Education and Psychology professor at Southern, passed away December 27, while visiting family in Florida. He is survived by his wife, Anita, and five adult children.

Marion Barrera, attended, passed away May 9. He was predeceased by his first wife, **Lucille (Reed) Barrera**, '47, and daughter, **Teresa (Barrera) Lingenfelter**, '74. He is survived by his second wife, **Josephine (Giles) Barrera**, and daughters **Arlene (Barrera) Reynolds**, attended, **Diana Barrera**, **Donna Barrera**, '83, and **Rebecca (Barrera) Tobar**.

Katharyn "Kitty" Anderson Crowder, '26, passed away at age 102 on September 19. She is survived by daughter Anne Border, son James F. Crowder, Jr., six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

John Wesley Fowler, '64, passed away November 30, 2009. He is survived by his wife, **Kay Fowler**, attended; son, **Mark Fowler**, '81; daughters, **Melonie Fowler**, '80, and **Marcia (Fowler) Scorpio**, attended; as well as six grandchildren.

Lorenzo Grant, retired School of Religion professor during the 1970s and '80s, passed away July 2010 in Avon Park, Florida. He is survived by his wife, **Grayce (Hunter) Grant**, '81, son, **Loren Grant**, '85, as well as six other children; and several grandchildren.

Paul LeRoy Jensen, '59, died as the result of a car accident on December 21, 2010, near his home in Crossville, Tennessee. He is survived by his wife, **Shirley (Jones) Jensen**, attended; son, Chris Jensen; and daughter, Julie Jensen.

Teresa (Barrera) Lingenfelter, '74, passed away on February 20, 2010. She is survived by her husband, Dale Lingenfelter; daughters, **Jodi (Deindoerfer) Torsney**, attended, **Cari (Deindoerfer) Anderson**, attended; and four grandchildren.

R.C. Mills, retired business manager during the '70s, passed away in October 2010 in Collegedale. He is predeceased by his wife, El Rita Mills. He is survived by his sons, Sid, Bob, and **Charles Mills**, '73, and daughter, **Susan (Mills) Van Cleve**, '74.

Sherrie Norton, retired student missions program coordinator and manager of the Chaplain's Office from 1989 to 2004, passed away on January 23, 2011, after battling cancer. She is survived by her husband, **Ken Norton**, retired Student Finance director and Director of Development; daughter, Cynthia Firestone; son, **Ken Norton, Jr.**, '97; daughter-in-law, **Julie (Alvarez) Norton**, '96; and four grandchildren. The Nortons were recipients of the Honorary Alumni Award in 2009 in recognition of their many years of dedicated service to the university.

Cyril Roe, retired School of Education and Psychology professor during the 1970s, '80s, and '90s, passed away in April 2010. He is survived by his wife, **Joy (Cooper) Roe**, retired Records Office staff member; son, Peter Roe; and daughter, **Vernita (Roe) Bean**, attended. The Roes were recipients of the Honorary Alumni Award in 1994 in recognition of their many years of dedicated service to the university.

Erik Wolfe, '85, passed away September 20, 2010. He practiced dentistry in Porterville, California, until November 2009 when he became a quadriplegic as a result of a contracted infection. He is survived by his two daughters, Kaitlyn and Lauren.



A Weekly Tradition

Every Thursday at 11 a.m., Southern students attend a university-wide program known as convocation. Guests such as Mitch Albom, author of *Tuesdays with Morrie*, as well as Alina Fernandez, daughter of Fidel Castro, are just a few of the presenters who have spoken at recent convocations.



By Gordon Bietz, president

unity

Much has been made of the communication revolution, but an increase in communication avenues doesn't automatically build social capital.

People are connecting by TV, radio, and computer to whatever feeds their individualism and self-focus. Our churches are threatened by this sort of individualism, but this isn't anything new. Bickering and dysfunctional individualism were no doubt a part of the scene at the Last Supper. Disciples were still arguing about who would be the greatest, fighting over who would get the best seat, and whispering about the *faux pas* of having no one there to wash their feet.

Then in His final words before He took the last walk to the lonely cross, Jesus prayed for us. "My prayer is not for them alone [His disciples who were around Him]. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message [us], that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you" (John 17:20-21, NIV).

Why is this unity important to Jesus? It is important because it helps the world see God's love.

What Is the Glue?

When the debate over circumcision arose, the early Christians teetered on the brink of fragmenting into two factions. The question under discussion was circumcision, but the real issue was unity. There were those in Jerusalem who wanted a unity built on the glue of circumcision.

Here is what Peter had to say about that. "God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them [the Gentiles] by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are" (Acts 15:8-11, NIV).

The glue is found in verse 11: "We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they [the Gentiles] are."

That doesn't do away with standards or doctrine; rather, it simply makes clear what is the most important standard.

Fences or Bridges?

A story is told of a traveling carpenter who went to the door of a farmhouse to seek some temporary work. "Do you see that farmhouse over there?" the farmer asked. "Well, Joe, who lives over there, and I used to be the best of friends, but a few years ago a stray heifer came into my field, and he said it was his. We were so angry with each other that we quit talking. And then a few months ago, he took his plow and dug a trench right between us, changing the course of the creek that used to flow over there. Now the creek separates us. I'm going on a trip today for a couple of days, and I want you to use that pile of wood behind the house and build a good, high fence between our houses."

"I reckon I can do that," said the carpenter.

The farmer was gone for a few days, and when he drove up to his farm, he was so surprised that his mouth dropped open. He did not see the large fence that he ordered—but instead a beautiful bridge crossing the creek to Joe's house.

Before he could speak, across the bridge came his neighbor, old Joe, with his hand outstretched.

"Neighbor, you are so good, and I was so wrong to keep that heifer. Our friendship is more important than a cow. You are something else—building a bridge across my creek. Let's be friends again."

The farmer paused and said with a smile, "Yes, Joe, let's be friends. You can keep the old cow."

The carpenter turned to pack his tools, and Joe said, "Say, you must stay. I have other work for you."

"No, I must go," the carpenter replied. "You see, I have other bridges to build."

What place will the Adventist Church play in this age of an anti-church individualism? Will we find our identity in that which separates us or that which unites us?

In response to Jesus' last prayer, let us also be bridge builders. ■



What's your Southern story?

When I graduated with a nursing degree from Southern in 1994, I was following in the footsteps of my three sons. Now we are a family of nurses—and a family who golfs for Southern. Every year since 1985 my son, Don, '82 and '84, and I have played in Southern's annual golf tournament. Last year my grandson, Lincoln Duff, a junior business administration major, joined the family tradition. Being able to play golf with my son and grandson is the highlight of my year. We love knowing that our annual game of golf helps Southern students through the Dave Cress Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund.

— Don I. Duff, '94

Do you want to have fun while supporting student scholarships?
Join us for the next Dave Cress Memorial Golf Tournament on **August 28**.

Do you have a generational story you'd like to share about your family's involvement with Southern? Share it with us at southern.edu/advancement/mystory.